

By N.Y. congressman

Study of JFK autopsy X rays sought

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WASHINGTON — Rep. Theodore R. Kupferman, R-N.Y., said yesterday that the Kennedy family's lawyer has refused him permission to inspect the photographs and X-rays taken during the autopsy on President Kennedy.

The rules the family imposed in depositing the material in the National Archives effectively bar anyone from seeing it, according to Kupferman.

He said the impression given when the material was deposited, that it would be available for inspection by government agencies, was illusory.

Dr. James Rhoads, deputy archivist, said that, since the material was deposited on Oct. 31, no one had seen it. A dozen or so requests had been submitted, he said and as far as he

knew, all of them had been turned down by Burke Marshall, the Kennedy representative.

The rules under which the material was given to the archives appeared to bar inspection by anyone who did not receive special permission from Marshall, Rhoads said.

Kupferman said that he was writing to President Johnson to ask that some official inspection be made.

Only a look at the autopsy material, the Manhattan Republican said, can put to rest doubts about the "single bullet theory" that have been expressed in a variety of recent publications critical of the Warren commission's report on the assassination.

The single bullet theory holds that one bullet from the rifle fired by Lee Harvey Oswald on

Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas, Tex., wounded both President Kennedy and Texas Gov. John B. Connally Jr.

Of the three bullets fired from the Oswald rifle, the theory holds, one wounded both men, one missed, and the third struck the president in the top of the head, killing him.

Last September, Kupferman introduced a resolution to establish a joint committee that would see whether there should be a congressional investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Kupferman said he won't submit a similar resolution this year until he sees if the President might act to bring about an inspection of the autopsy material. The material was never examined by the Warren commission or its staff.

Kupferman contends that the

doubts cannot be quieted without an inspection of the material in the archives.

He wrote Dec. 27 to Dr. Robert H. Bahmer, the chief archivist, requesting that he and two doctors — New York City's chief medical examiner, Dr. Milton Helpert, and Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, chief forensic pathologist of Allegheny County in Pennsylvania — be allowed to see the material.

Bahmer wrote back on Jan. 6 that he had referred the request to Marshall. Marshall turned it down Jan. 25.

"The wishes of the Kennedy family as reflected in the agreement by which the material was given to the United States, are that there be no examination of the material for at least five years, except by a properly authorized federal gov-

ernment agency," Marshall wrote. "Thereafter, inspection will be limited to persons professionally qualified to evaluate medical evidence for serious historical purposes. The reasons for these restrictions are obvious.

"While the first of these provisions could be waived, I have concluded that I should not do so. I have given careful consideration, because of your official position, to the question whether an exception should be made in your case, and have decided that there is no basis for that..." Marshall continued.

The rules for access to the material, according to Rhoads, permit inspection by persons acting for a committee of Congress or a presidential commission established to investigate the assassination — neither of which now exist.